

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## WELCOMING KING MOHAMMED VI

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 6, 2004*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. PITTS and I, would like to welcome King Mohammed VI of Morocco to the United States and wish him well during his visit. We strongly urge His Majesty to uphold and implement his nation's agreements regarding the conflict over the Western Sahara. In addition, we urge His Majesty to uphold U.N. Security Council Resolution 1541 as a tribute to former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, who promoted international legality and justice while responding to the true long-term interests of both parties concerned in this conflict. His Majesty's support for the former U.N. Special Envoy Baker's Peace Plan would be the best contribution to peace and stability in the region. In addition, upholding the Peace Plan would demonstrate the effectiveness of the pursuit of national aspirations through non-violence in the greater Middle East, a region that has been the target of much violence.

Mr. Speaker, last week, a number of Members sent a letter to President Bush requesting that during his meeting with the King, he strongly encourage His Majesty to implement the United Nations Settlement Plan in order to achieve a just, peaceful, and lasting resolution to the conflict over Western Sahara. The letter welcomed United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1541 adopted April 29, 2004, which reaffirmed support for the Peace Plan for Self-Determination of the People of Western Sahara devised by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan's Special Envoy, James Baker, and shared deep regret over the departure of Mr. Baker and the circumstances that led to his resignation.

In addition, the letter welcomed the confidence-building measures taken by the Polisario Front which released a further 643 Moroccan POWs since July 2003; the number of POWs the Polisario has liberated since 1991 now totals 1,760. However, the Members of Congress expressed their regret that the Government of King Mohammed VI has not reciprocated in a commensurate way. The fact that the Sahrawis have opted for non-violence in the affirmation of their identity and have respected the terms of the cease-fire signed in 1991 between their representative and Morocco, is telling in terms of who is committed to settlement of the conflict.

Further, the letter expressed great concern that if the conflict between these two parties is left unresolved, it has the potential to disrupt peace and stability in the Maghreb region, thus threatening the interests of the United States. The Members expressed that the United States should use its unique influence in that region to press the Moroccan Government and the Polisario Front to agree to the Peace Plan and to implement it under the supervision of the United Nations. Although U.S.

attention is primarily focused, as it should be on Iraq and on the war against terrorism, the letter underscores the concern of the Members that the Western Sahara conflict needs to be addressed urgently and fairly to the benefit of the peoples of the region and in the interest of the United States. A peaceful, successful resolution of the conflict over Western Sahara will provide a signal to the Broader Middle East and North African region that in the 21st century there are successful alternatives to violence in the pursuit of national aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, we again extend our welcome His Majesty and strongly urge him not to stand in the way of progress towards the peaceful resolution of the conflict over Western Sahara.

## HONORING GRACE CLAYTON ON THE COMPLETION OF HER INTERNSHIP

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 6, 2004*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions Grace Clayton has made while interning in my Washington, D.C., office. Grace, a fellow Middle Tennessean, has been a wonderful addition to the office and a great servant to the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Grace is finishing her second internship in my Washington, D.C., office, but she must return to the University of Alabama, where she is majoring in public relations. She is a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, a volunteer for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and an acolyte in the Episcopal church.

During her internship, she has been a tremendous help to me and my staff as she assisted us in numerous projects. Not only did she win us over, but she also won over constituents as she guided them through the U.S. Capitol.

I hope Grace has enjoyed her fast-paced internship as much as we have appreciated her hard work. I wish her all the best in the future.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PETER DEUTSCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 6, 2004*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber Wednesday, June 23, Thursday, June 24, and Friday, June 25, during rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on rollcall No. 288, and "Yea" on rollcall No. 300, "Yea" on rollcall No. 304, "No" on rollcall No. 318, and "Yea" on rollcall No. 325.

## HOUSE FOOD SERVICE WORKERS SHOULD BE COMMENDED

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 6, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the food services workers of the Longworth, Rayburn, and Cannon House Office buildings, I submit for the record a letter signed by thirty-eight Members of Congress to Guest Service Inc. CEO/President Gerald T. Gabrys denouncing his decision to have his workers pay his company a day of wages on The National Day of Mourning.

The men and women who serve Members of Congress, staff, and the public each day in the House cafeterias are some of the most dedicated, hard working, and patriotic workers in our nation. They spend hours on their feet each day, ensuring that the House functions smoothly. Their characteristic smiles are a testament to the professionalism with which they go about their jobs.

But while the House food service workers have served Members of Congress for years—often without recognition—it has become time for Members of Congress to serve them. The rest of nation set aside June 11, 2004 to honor and pay solemn tribute to former President Reagan, but Guest Services Inc. (GSI) used the National Day of Mourning as a unique opportunity to extract compensation from its workforce.

Indeed, as federal employees across the nation were granted a one-day paid "holiday" on the National Day of Mourning, Guest Services employees were barred from reporting to work and required to expend a vacation or sick day to be paid for this previously scheduled day of employment. As a government contractor, GSI knew that Congress or the President could close the government at any time. This is a business risk inherent in GSI's relationship with the government. GSI passed the cost along to its employees.

The thirty-eight Members of Congress who signed this letter believe that decision was wrong. We have called upon GSI to pay its workers for the National Day of Mourning and return any vacation or sick time used as a result of their policy.

The House food service workers should be commended—not punished—for their admirable service to the federal government and our nation.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, June 25, 2004.

Mr. GERALD T. GABRYS,  
President/CEO, Guest Services Inc.,  
Fairfax, VA

DEAR MR. GABRYS: We write to express our concern and disappointment regarding the decision by Guest Services Inc. (GSI) not to pay its food service workers on June 11, 2004, The National Day of Mourning.

As you know, all executive departments, independent establishments, and other governmental agencies were closed on June 11th

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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